



# Maricopa County Animal Care & Control



## KIDS HELPING PETS

### GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in helping pets, there are plenty of things you can do to make a difference! There are homeless pets at our animal care centers, and there are also pets in your own neighborhood who might need your help.

#### KIDS HELPING HOMELESS PETS

There are limited volunteer opportunities at the AC&C animal care centers between 16 and 18 years old. You won't be able to handle animals, but you can help with other important jobs in the office. However, the most important ways you can help our homeless pets happen in your home, school, and neighborhood — wherever you are! Here are some examples of things you can collect or make for the animals in our care:

#### **Things to Collect**

- You can help the homeless pets at AC&C animal care centers by collecting things they need every day. A great project is a **Creature Comfort Collection** of towels, sheets, and blankets to help our animals feel more safe and comfortable while they are in our care. (See the next page for more information about Creature Comfort Collections.)
- There are also other things you can collect to help our animals: laundry detergent to wash their beds, dish detergent to wash their bowls, or even pennies to help pay for their care!

#### **Things to Make**

- Many of the dogs at AC&C like to wear **bandannas** to help them look special for people who might adopt them! Dog bandannas should be made of lightweight cotton material so we can wash them again and again. Any decorations you use should be made with washable paint or markers (please don't add anything to the bandannas that might come off). Bandannas should be either 24"x24" or 16"x16" squares (to be folded into a triangles and tied around the dogs' necks).
- If you are part of a group who likes to **build things**, there are other projects you can make for homeless animals. Please call the AC&C Education Department for more information.

*(see other side...)*

## **KIDS HELPING NEIGHBORHOOD PETS**

You can also help your own pets and those who live in your neighborhood. Pets belong with people! There are lots of things you can do to learn about what pets need to stay safe, happy, and healthy.

### **Things to Learn**

- **Choose an animal topic** that interests you and learn more about it! Use the library and the internet to find books and other information about your topic. You might want to learn more about what pets need, why they do what they do, careers working with pets, how to prevent pet overpopulation, animal laws, or other topics.
- **Write** an essay, report, story, song, or letter about what you have learned. **Make a poster** or bulletin board to teach others, too!

### **Things to Make**

- How could you use what you have learned to help pets? You could ask permission to put up **posters** in your neighborhood about what pets need and how to keep them safe.
- You could also make **fun, safe toys** for your own pets or for those in the neighborhood. (Learn about safe toys by doing research or by calling the AC&C Education Department for more information.)

### **Things to Do to Help**

- Do you know an elderly or sick person who has a pet? **Volunteer to help** feed, walk, or bathe the person's dog or change cat litter. You might need the help of an adult for some of these tasks. You could make a big difference for a pet and his person.
- You can also **watch for pet dangers** in your neighborhood. Broken glass, sharp garbage, the plastic rings from drink cans, and other trash are dangerous for animals. By keeping your neighborhood clean of these objects, you will help save pets from injury.
- **Be safe** around animals by understanding what makes animals feel like they have to bite. (The AC&C Education Department has more information about this topic.) You can help animals by making sure they feel safe!
- **Be a responsible pet guardian!** Other people will learn from you when you make sure that your pets have everything they need:
  - > food and clean water
  - > shelter from the weather
  - > veterinary care, vaccinations (shots), and a license
  - > training for good manners
  - > safe toys and plenty of interesting things to do
  - > a safe place of his own
  - > lots of time with you!

**For more information about the Education Programs of  
Maricopa County Animal Care and Control, call (602) 506-PETS  
or log on to [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov).**